**Semester(s) offered:   Fall      Spring 2018**

**Berrien Springs Parent Partnership**

**Independent Study/Project Based Learning Course Description and Syllabus**

**Course Title: Nature Explorers**

**Ages/Grade Levels: 6-12 years old**

**Class size: Min:8 Max:\_\_\_**

**Location Name: Sarett Nature Center**

**Location Address: 2300 N. Benton Center Rd., Benton Harbor MI 49022**

**Provide directions to location if necessary:**

**Start Date: January 10, 2018   
End Date: April 18, 2018** (Must be at least 16 hours of instructional time)

**Day of the Week: Circle: Every other Wednesday**

**Begin and end time of class: 2:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Contact/Instructors: Eileen Carlson**

**Email and Website: eileenc@sarett.com; www.sarett.com**

**Best phone #:(269) 927-4832 Publish # on website? Y**

**Does the student also need to register with you or at your location? N**

**Classes will be (circle one): Pass/Fail**

**Briefly describe the course, including topics to be covered and subject areas that the course will cover –this is what will be posted on our website:**

**The spring session will touch on Animal Senses then focus on various habitats. A lecture period will be followed by small group activities and hikes.**

**Weekly breakdown of instruction: (write on separate sheet if necessary)**

**Jan. 10 Animal Senses: We will study animal sense adaptations and compare them to human senses.**

**Jan. 27 A Day of Cross Country Skiing or Winter Hike: If there is snow, we’ll learn to use skis to explore the winter landscape. Otherwise, we will hike.**

**Feb. 7 Habitat: Learn what makes good habitats, how various factors can affect animal populations and search of examples of various habitats.**

**Feb. 21 Bogs, Fens, and Carnivorous Plants: Learn how Michigan’s glaciers left unique wetland features and examine some of the interesting survival adaptations developed by plants.**

**Mar. 7 Wetland Habitats: We’ll search for examples of adaptations that allow plants to survive in the soggy soils of wetlands.**

**Mar. 21 Pond Habitat: We’ll continue our study of the wetland ecosystem with an in-depth look at the organisms that habit ponds.**

**Apr. 4 River Valley/Riparian Habitat: Learn how plants that grow in a river valley are adapted to flooding and dry periods.**

**Apr. 18 Dune Habitat: Families will meet at Grand Mere State Park to discuss the dune formation process and explore the dune habitat.**

**All classes must have a min. of 4 Course Objective Checkpoints unique to your class. You will note on the attendance sheet when students have met these objectives. Write in #’s 2 and 3:  
  
1st: pre-test**

**2nd: can list 3 key differences between various habitats**

**3rd: can name 1 habitat-specific plant**

**4th: post-test and/or project/performance**

**List any materials that students are required to bring to class:**

**Appropriate outdoor walking clothing**

**List any required or optional online resources you will use in class:**

**Final Project: Circle method(s) of evaluation resulting in a percentage improvement score** (presentation, art fair, performance, recital, art gallery, written report, final exam, musical composition, product such as woodworking, jewelry, food harvest or presentation, video, graphic or other visual artwork)

**Please attach:**

**One 10 question (multiple choice, T/F, or open ended) pre/post-test to be given the first and last week of class that will assess knowledge of subject(s) covered in class during the semester. Scores must be recorded on the attendance form provided.**

**Cost per student for entire semester, including materials and supplies: $32**

**Invoices are due 10/15 for Fall and 2/15 for Spring.**

Thank you for providing your expertise to the students in our community!